

## **Hon Stephen Mullighan MP**

Acting Minister for Defence Industries

Acting Minister for Investment and Trade

Monday, 17 July, 2017

### **Local jobs growth as Rheinmetall and SupaShock come together for global partnership**

New export opportunities and new high-tech defence manufacturing jobs will flow from a new partnership between South Australian suspension maker SupaShock and international military vehicle maker and builder Rheinmetall Defence.

German-based Rheinmetall has acquired 49% of SupaShock in a move that will underpin the Magill firm's future growth.

It follows the recent announcement that SupaShock will develop and manufacture a revolutionary military suspension and integrated intelligent load handling systems for Rheinmetall's range of military trucks.

The new agreement between SupaShock founder and owner Oscar Fiorinotto and Rheinmetall Defence Executive Board member Ben Hudson takes the alliance between the two companies to a new level.

It will grow local jobs as SupaShock firm continues its transition from automotive and mining applications into the global defence manufacturing sector.

### **Background**

Traditionally SupaShock has made state-of-the-art active shock absorbers for motorsport and the heavy mining industry.

The company has 25 employees at its Adelaide facilities and generates more than \$3.5 million in sales annually.

More recently SupaShock has developed suspension technology for armoured and protected defence vehicles produced by Rheinmetall Defence.

The SupaShock system is suitable for the Australian and global markets and substantially increases the capability and safety of Rheinmetall's military trucks in demanding environments.

Rheinmetall Defence sets the global standard for excellence in a wide range of disciplines.

It offers an extensive array of military hardware that delivers mobility, survivability of troops and networking of national and international systems.

## **Quotes attributable to Acting Defence Industries Minister Stephen Mullighan**

SupaShock is an innovative local company transitioning from traditional markets into the defence supply chain in a way that will increase its export opportunities and create significant numbers of jobs.

It is a great example of how inventive, local advanced manufacturing companies are building their business by gaining access to opportunities on the global stage.

Our defence industry supply firms are crucial to delivering South Australian jobs of the future and driving the broader growth as an advanced economy.

This partnership with internationally recognised company Rheinmetall Defence will further support SupaShock's transition and provide more local job opportunities here in Adelaide.

## **Quotes attributable to SupaShock founder and owner Oscar Fiorinotto**

The partnership with Rheinmetall will underpin our future growth, and create enduring jobs in the automotive sector that will deliver performance improvements to our customers and real benefits to the Australian economy.

Our focus is shifting from an extensive product development phase to the start of an accelerated growth phase and we welcome Rheinmetall as a partner that can enable access to international markets and provide funding to drive this growth.

## **Quotes attributable to Rheinmetall Defence Executive Board member Ben Hudson**

Rheinmetall saw significant future potential in the technology developed by SupaShock and the capabilities of the company's team and leadership.

Just as the technology provides a step change in the performance of both our tactical and logistic vehicles, we see the close co-operation between our two companies as a platform for an integrated approach towards global expansion into the military and commercial vehicle market.

This partnership will deliver real benefits for the Australian economy through the generation of local jobs, while creating substantial export opportunities for SupaShock.

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